

4-24-1970

The Tiger Vol. LXIII No. 28 - 1970-04-24

Clemson University

Follow this and additional works at: https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/tiger_newspaper1970

Recommended Citation

University, Clemson, "The Tiger Vol. LXIII No. 28 - 1970-04-24" (1970). *Tiger Newspapers 1970*. 14.
https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/tiger_newspaper1970/14

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by TigerPrints. It has been accepted for inclusion in Tiger Newspapers 1970 by an authorized administrator of TigerPrints. For more information, please contact kokeefe@clemson.edu.

Administration Censors 'Repugnant' Chronicle

By JIM WALSER
Managing Editor

The University Executive Council this week halted publication of a special literary annual which was scheduled to be distributed Wednesday.

Entitled Intergalactic Tastebook, the material for the edition was written by members of the Clemson Literary Workshop and published under the auspices of the Chronicle, the student variety magazine.

University officials also stop-

ped distribution of a regular edition of the Chronicle, which was already published. The University Executive Council met Friday morning to decide the fate of this edition.

The move to censor the literary annual was an unprecedented

gesture on the part of the administration. President R.C. Edwards issued a formal statement Wednesday, stating, "When grossly obscene language about to be printed in the Chronicle, student literary magazine, was called to my attention, I directed that printing be suspended. I could do no less in light of my own responsibilities."

Edwards added, "Clemson University will not sanction publication, at university expense and bearing the university name, of filth which I believe is repugnant to the overwhelming majority of Clemson students, their parents, and the citizens of South Carolina."

Edwards reiterated his claim that campus publications will not be censored, but stated, the University "most retain the right to suspend any publication whose editors fail to exercise proper responsibility."

The objectionable material gave "an explicit description of perverse sexual acts," according to Edwards.

A spokesman for the Chronicle said Thursday members of the staff sent both issues to R.L. Bryan Printers in Columbia several weeks ago to be published and sent back to Clemson for distribution, which would have taken place Wednesday.

A typesetter for the company, apparently finding some of the material intended for the literary edition personally objectionable, complained to a R.L. Bryan vice-president. The vice-president contacted a University administrator and the University Executive Council subsequently requested a galley sheet of one page of copy.

Upon examining the sheet, the council voted unanimously to stop publication of the literary issue and halt distribution of the regular variety magazine, pending a later decision.

Robert Whitney, the 1969-70 Chronicle editor-in-chief, said Thursday night that the regular edition is "finished and sitting in cartons ready for distribution at R.L. Bryan's in Columbia."

Both Whitney and newly-elected 1970-71 editor-in-chief Robert Wheatley were puzzled by the administration's tactics concerning the affair. Wheatley said that he had contemplated removing the story in question, which covered seven pages, and proceeding with publication.

Whitney said, "The president made public statements about the issue without consulting any member of the staff beforehand. They (the administration) have failed to officially or unofficially contact the staff about salvaging the issue and giving the students the magazines they have paid for and have a right to see."

"Our administration has denied freedom of the press, freedom of expression and the basic academic freedom expected at an institution of higher learning," Whitney said.

The administrative action was a precedent for this University. The three student publications, Chronicle, TAPS, and The Tiger, had previously been left to a largely self-imposed censorship with members of each staff ultimately deciding what could be considered "obscene."

In numerous previous statements, as in the one Wednesday, President Edwards has denied that student publications would be censored, while maintaining the right to stop publication altogether.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Although the Tiger officially ceased publication for the year last week, the staff thought the issue of censorship which has arisen, merits coverage by this publication.

The articles and comments contained in this issue debate the freedom of collegiate press and its ramifications in reference to the general welfare of the Clemson campus.

The heads of Clemson's student publications discussed censorship during a radio debate on Thursday night. The discussion was relevant and merits attention.

The development of academic freedom at Clemson is still in its infancy and the discussion should be an indication to most of the University community that we at Clemson are at the crossroads of a decision.

This edition contains most of the arguments of both administration and students. Those who have comments should contact the administration or those students who make policy decisions for campus publications or the radio station and let them know what campus opinion is on censorship.

R. C. Edward's Statement

April 22, 1970

Clemson student publications are allowed broad freedom. Their contents are not and will not be censored by the administration. The University, however, must retain the right to suspend any publication whose editors fail to exercise proper responsibility.

When grossly obscene language about to be printed in The Chronicle, student literary magazine, was called to my attention, I directed that printing be suspended. I could do no less in the light of my own responsibilities.

Clemson University will not sanction publication, at university expense and bearing the university name, of filth which I believe is repugnant to the overwhelming majority of Clemson students, their parents, and the citizens of South Carolina.

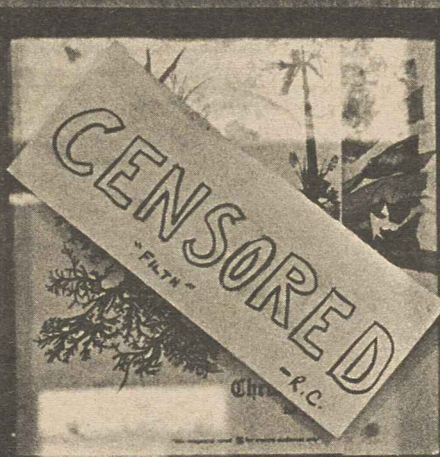
Explicit description of perverse sexual acts has no proper place in a Clemson publication. So long as I am in authority it will not be permitted.

The Tiger

Friday, April 24, 1970

SPECIAL EDITION

Clemson, S. C.



Chronicle

Censorship Called 'Sneaky', Future Repression Feared

The legality and ethics of the administration's censorship of the student literary magazine, The Chronicle, was the subject of a discussion between heads of the major campus media broadcast Thursday night on the student radio station, WSBF.

Presenting their ideas on this issue were Dick Harpootlian, editor-in-chief of The Tiger, Rob Cox, editor of TAPS, Robert Wheatley, editor of The Chronicle, and Paul Batson, business director for WSBF. All voiced disapproval of the refusal of President R.C. Edwards to allow the magazine to be released to the student body, and were especially critical of his handling of the problem.

According to Wheatley, the decision to withhold the two issues was based on the reading of "only the first page of the first issue," and was announced almost a week after Edwards decision. He

added that if he or his staff had been notified immediately of Edwards' objection to certain words used in the magazine, the words could have been deleted without holding up publication.

Wheatley said that the administration "hasn't read the magazine and they have no idea what's in it. The action they took this time was rather underhanded and sneaky. It shouldn't have taken them a week to find me."

Harpootlian claimed that any censorship should come from the students, not in the form of censorship but of constructive criticism. He said, "I'm scared the administration will be pushed by the alumni, and state legislators from whom the university gets a lot of its funds, into the repression of certain rights. Right now it looks like next year is going to be a year of repression."

(Continued on page 3)



The Tiger

Opinions expressed on the editorial page are those of the individual writer, excepting the lead editorial which expresses the majority opinion of The Tiger editorial board.

DICK HARPOOTLIAN, Editor-in-Chief

JIM WALSER, Managing Editor

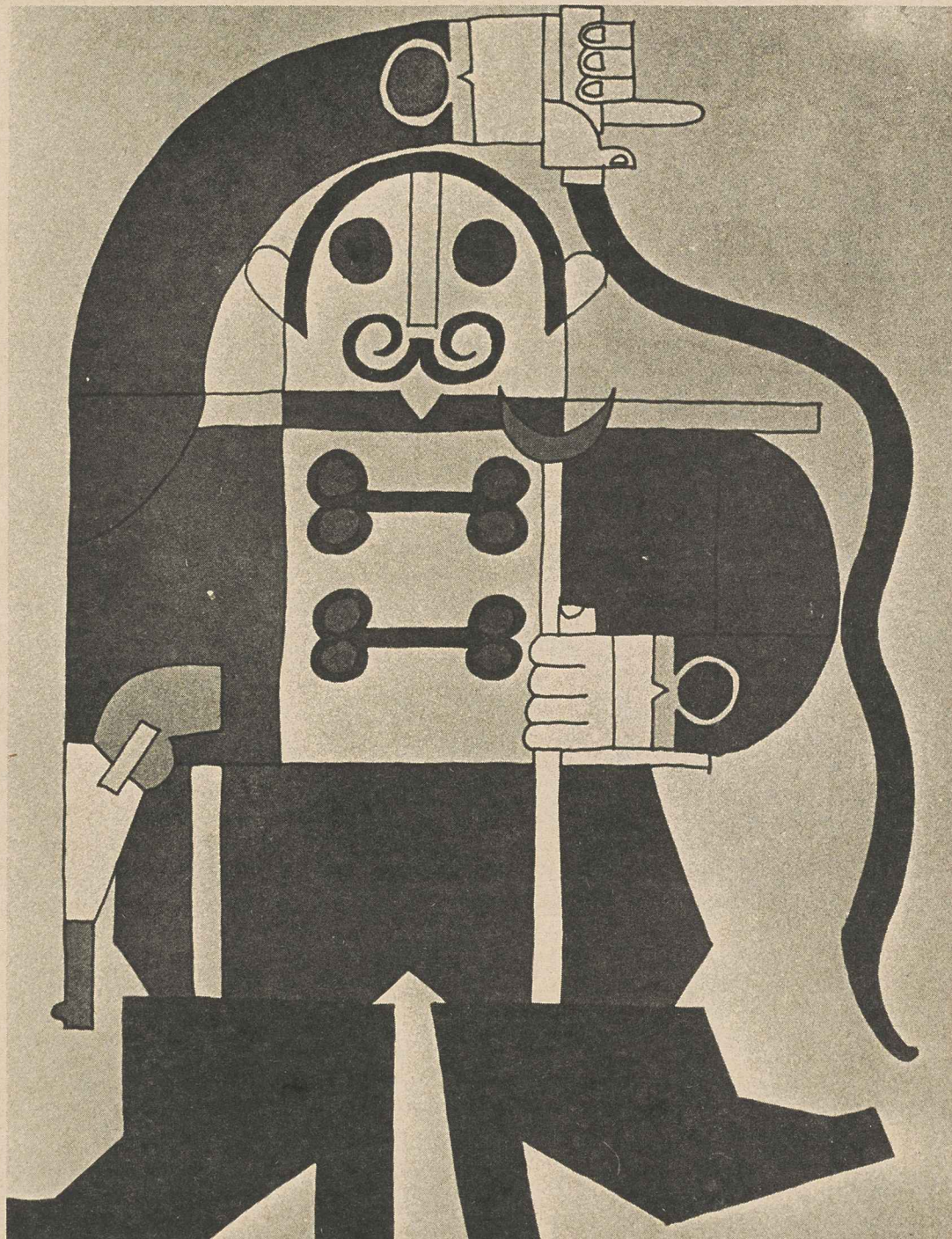
JIM FORTH, Editorial Page Editor

MARC FEINBERG, Business Manager

Page 2

THE TIGER

April 24, 1970



Administrative Finesse?

Fitchburg Court Decision Supports Collegiate Press

College Press Service
BOSTON—(CPS)—A Massachusetts U.S. District Court Judge Monday handed down a ruling against pre-publication censorship of student newspapers at state-supported colleges.

In the case of the Fitchburg State College "Cycle," Judge Arthur Garity Jr. ruled that "prior submission to an advisory board of material intended to be published in the 'Cycle,' in order that the board may decide whether it complies with responsible freedom of the press or is obscene, may not be constitutionally required either by means of withholding funds derived from student activity fees or otherwise."

Harold Dulong, the attorney representing the "Cycle," termed the case a landmark case and said the decision, which applies to student news-

papers at public-funded colleges throughout the country, is significant "in terms of freedom of the student press."

Editors of the "Cycle" took their case to court last fall after Fitchburg State College President James Hammond revoked newspaper funds because they printed Eldridge Cleaver's article "Black Moochie." After the Cleaver article appeared, Hammond set up a two-member advisory board — made up of two administrators — to review and approve "Cycle" material, before material appeared in print.

In this case, Dulong said he showed, in effect, that the state was acting as a censor. The freedom of the press provision of the first amendment prohibits the state from acting as a censor.

The decision was based largely on the "censorial" supervisory powers of the advisory board. In an 18-page opinion, the court said there is no exception. "The (Fitchburg) policy conferred could presumably be used to get complete control of the content of the newspaper."

According to the court document, "so far as the evidence shows," the two members of the advisory board are "wholly unfamiliar with the complex tests of obscenity established by the supreme court."

"Under the circumstance we need not decide whether adequate procedural safeguards could ever be formulated supporting prior restraint of a weekly newspaper. It is extremely doubtful. Newspaper censorship in any form seems essentially incompatible with freedom of the press."

CENSORED!

When the administration withdrew funds from the *Chronicle* for supposedly publishing obscene words and descriptive paragraphs, they weren't thinking about the mental and moral welfare of the Clemson student body. Anyone who has walked down a dormitory hall or attended a football game has heard what the *Chronicle* dared to print. Clemson students have a propensity for what the administration terms "obscene," and so it is very easy to see that the administration wasn't too worried about the corruption of young minds.

It's the old minds they are worried about. Those same minds who sit in the state appropriations board and scribble out how much money is going to be allotted to Clemson for the following year. Playing politics for better educational facilities is an old sport in South Carolina, but this time the means to achieve the end has obliterated the desired end — a first rate academic institution.

The morals and ethics of the people of this segment of the United States are their pride and joy. We feel that the morals and ethics of the people of South Carolina should be respected and in return we expect them to respect ours. There is usually a problem with moral and religious zealots though; they feel that the rest of the world should be just as zealous as they are.

In their campaign to uplift the morals of the world they have forced the administration of this institution to disregard constitutional and basic human rights. The confrontation was inevitable: the state legislature steeped in Southern moral piety and an academic institution striving to achieve excellence. Scholarship and academic freedom reserve no place for sacred traditions or taboos of society. We have no patience with ignorant subjectivity when it interferes with students' search for knowledge.

Academic freedom at Clemson has come under attack from the outside several times before, but the remedies were not clear. The remedy in this situation is clear cut. District Court cases like *Dickey vs. Alabama* or the *Fitchburg* case in Massachusetts several weeks ago confirm that the administration of state universities cannot impose prior restraints or censorship. The Supreme Court in the *Tinker* Case showed it has inclinations toward agreeing with the District Court rulings.

South Carolina District Courts aren't likely to back the students on questions of academic freedom. The Supreme Court will probably uphold the students rights. The question is, how far are we willing to go?

Editor of this year's TAPS John Settle received a letter from President Edwards this week in which the President expressed his displeasure with some of the language used in this year's book. Again we can see that the long arm of the legislature is affecting our rights. Next year's editor, Rob Cox, feels that he is in a precarious position and next year will probably be seized with indecision as to what is acceptable and what isn't.

We indict more than just the administration, more than just the legislature. We indict the people of South Carolina whose idea of an academic institution involves censorship and the denial of basic human rights. We don't ask, but rather demand for what is ours. We deserve our constitutional rights as citizens of the United States.

All the flag waving and singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" means nothing if it isn't followed up with action which shows that the people of South Carolina know what democracy means and their aim is to promote its ideology, no matter what the cost.

The Tiger

NEWS EDITOR
Bob Thompson

ASST. NEWS EDITOR
Mike Forth

ASST. NEWS EDITOR
Gene Troutman

SPORTS EDITOR
John Bolt

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Tom Henrikson

FEATURES EDITOR
Tom Priddy

CHIEF REPORTER
Jack Lynch

Entered as Second Class Matter at the Post Office, Clemson, S. C., Box 2097, University Station, Clemson, South Carolina 29631; Office Phone 274. Represented by National Advertising Service, 18 East 50th Street, New York, N. Y. 10022.

WSBF Disapproval Expressed

A funny thing happened on the way to the printers Wednesday, April 15th. . . .

Two issues of the CHRONICLE, the student literary magazine, which were to have been distributed the evening of April 22, was ordered suspended from printing by the Clemson University Executive Council after they viewed one page of one issue on Thursday, April 16.

The editors of the magazine were not notified of the action until approximately one week later. In answer to student questions concerning the suppression of the two issues, Pres. Robert G. Edwards issued the following statement on April 22:

During an interview with the 1969-70, and 1970-71 editors of the "Chronicle," and verified by Gen. A. Wood Rigsby, Univer-

sity Counsel, the supposed legal basis for the suspension was cited as a 1964 statement of publication acceptability drawn up by the University Academic Council. Though this policy may be on record, Dennis Bolt, this year's Tiger Editor-in-chief; Rick Oborn, this year's WSBF business director; John Settle, this year's TAPS editor-in-chief; and Robert Whitney, this

year's Chronicle editor-in-chief, all stated that they had not been given or made aware of such a policy when they took office.

When questioned about publication policy, The Chronicle editors complained that nothing was in writing for them to base decisions upon. And, indeed, the 1964 statement is worded in extremely broad terms, such that while certain words may have been offensive 20 or 30 years ago, today, they have become a regular part of this generation's vocabulary.

A question which presents itself is how this particular story containing the "offensive" words (two of them) came to the Executive Council's attention when it is a known fact that words of comparable "offensiveness" have appeared in previous student publications. It seems the publisher's lineotypist considers himself an editor regarding literary wordage. He brought the matter to the attention of one of the company's Vice-presidents who immediately called Dean Cox. What followed is Clemson history in the making. . . .

When Gen. Rigsby was confronted with the important question: "Is this censorship?" He sagely replied; "That's up to the courts to decide." Indeed, it seems some courts already have; that is the Dickey vs. Alabama case, and a week and a half old case out of the Massachusetts Federal court.

Questions as to why both issues were suspended, and as to why the editors' responsible to the student body for the magazine's publication were not notified when the action was taken — remains to be answered.

Well and good, some of the more complacent may say, the Chronicle was a liberal oriented and not worth the trouble anyway.

Perhaps we should then consider a letter received by the Editor-in-Chief of TAPS on April 21, from the President of this University which stated that the TAPS "was . . . expected to observe in its pages ordinary rules

of accuracy and commonly accepted canons of good taste." As questioned above, who decides "commonly accepted canons of good taste"? The students who spend hundreds of hours working on the publications, and the students to whom they will be distributed; or the administration because of a politically oriented reason?

We, the students at WSBF do not necessarily condone language which may be offensive to even a minority of readers. The question, however, is one of ethics.

The last paragraph of the letter in question sums up the administrative attitude toward those who stray from the paths of righteousness. "The purpose of this letter is to officially inform you of my deep concern and great disappointment that you as editor-in-chief of TAPS '70 would permit the publication of a yearbook that contains material that is so completely unacceptable within the purview of the institutional policy referred to above relating to the publication of TAPS."

And that's how it is at Clemson.

Questions raised concerning the future of censorship, or "suspension of publication," go unanswered. President Edwards seems to have decided that two words in common use around the dorms are "repugnant to the overwhelming majority of Clemson students." Nobody thought to let the students have a chance to pass judgement on their peers. Why were both issues suspended—guilt by association we guess. Why weren't the editors notified when the decision was made. One can only speculate.

The court cases cited tend to prove that suspension can be equated with censorship. We believe that the general feeling, other than a natural anger and frustration, is best summed up by a statement from the 1970-71 TIGER editor-in-chief, Dick Harpootlian: "Censorship is abhorrent and unconstitutional, and the University should be an academic, not a political institution."

Jones Opposes Censorship; Ex Wants Personal Opinion

By GENE TROUTMAN
Assistant News Editor

"The administration is justified in raising the question of censorship, but not justified in answering it by censoring," commented Student Body President Greg Jones with reference

Censorship

(Continued from page 1)

Students calling the radio station suggested several ways of retaliating against the administration's censorship policy. One suggested that the administration either release the two controversial issues or pay the Chronicle staff the money already spent for printing.

When informed that Edwards also disapproved of the 1970 TAPS, another student said, "TAPS has been more representative of the students this year than ever before. If the administration doesn't like it, then they shouldn't read it."

Wheatley was then asked if Edwards had said that The Chronicle might not be published next year. He replied, "I've heard it said he (Edwards) doesn't want The Chronicle around next year."

Harpootlian claimed that, since The Chronicle is financed by the students' activity funds, the students "ought to get their money out of it." He blamed the faculty in part for the censoring of publications, saying that "they have a lot of power but don't use it."

to the administrative action blocking the recent Chronicle publications.

President Robert C. Edwards stated Wednesday that the administration did not censor student publications, but that it must, however, "retain the right to suspend any publication whose editors fail to exercise proper responsibility."

Jones professed that "presuming a proper course of action could have been taken by the administration, they should have first informed the Chronicle editor of their opinion. If, however, the editor had not agreed with the advice given, he should have been allowed to print the material he desired." As it was, Robert Whitney, editor of the Chronicle, was not contacted until af-

ter the administration action was taken.

The student body president explained that it should be up to the editors in charge of our campus publications to decide their own policy of censorship. He added, "You can not censor a publication unless you personally compose it. You can only disagree with it, and publicly if you wish."

With respect to this year's Taps, which Edwards considered as an erroneous representation of the campus, Jones said, "Personally, I think the TAPS is excellent. It paints a realistic picture of our campus situation. Most of the students I have talked with think that it is cool as hell; I haven't heard anybody say anything against it."

Concerned?
GET ACTIVE- Join
The TAPS, Tiger,
Chronicle or WSBF

TAPS '70

ON SALE TODAY (FRIDAY) TO ALL

Students (i.e. No Pre-Payment Needed)

1-5 P.M.

A-Lounge

TAPS '70

On Wednesday, April 22, I received a letter from Dr. R. C. Edwards with critical comments on TAPS '70. The sentiments expressed in this letter were that TAPS '70 had been ruined by inappropriate copy. Dr. Edwards also quoted an institutional policy: "TAPS will be expected to observe in its pages ordinary rules of accuracy and *commonly accepted canons of good taste*."

His letter terminated with a paragraph officially informing me of his disappointment in me as editor-in-chief of TAPS '70.

The following are excerpts from my letter to Dr. Edwards dated April 22: "Your reference to the institutional policy is meaningless since I am unfortunately unfamiliar with this document. My knowledge of this *may* have led to my deletion of the copy you find unacceptable. However, as editor-in-chief of TAPS '70, I gladly accept the responsibility of the entire contents of this publication.

"The decisions made by a publication head are both difficult and permanent — trying to keep one's nose clean and yet 'tell it like it is' is even more difficult. It's quite easy to be a blatant demagogue or a silent

follower. I would guess that now my classification is either the bad guy with a white hat or just maybe the good guy with the black hat."

Dr. Edwards has based his issue on the interpretation of "commonly accepted canons of good taste" as it applies to Clemson University. I believe that the language in my book is part of the student's vocabulary — whether the Clemson student body has "good taste," I will not judge. So what is the real issue? Is it one of truth or hypocrisy? Or is it a question of publishing a puritanical book painting a beautiful Utopia, Clemson, or of publishing a yearbook that stimulates self-examination of the University — the students themselves?

My main concern at this time is for the 1971 TAPS — publication of TAPS '70 was not hindered by any administrative measures. I hope that the repercussions of this issue will not lead to any restrictive policies in the future.

I stand 100 per cent behind my yearbook — I leave the final judgment to the students, not the administration.

John Settle

JOHN E. SETTLE, JR.
Editor-in-Chief